ISSUE 1

WRESTLING THEN & NOW

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the first issue of Wrestling-Then And Now. I've put my heart and soul into this project and sincerely hope you enjoy it.

Let's answer a few questions first!

With so many bulletins on the scene, why am I doing Wrestling-Then And Now?

It's pretty simple actually. With almost 20 years of wrestling cards under my belt, and 10 years on the bulletin scene (how many people out there remember Wrestling Round-Up, WWF: News and Views or Wrestling Watch?), I've finally decided to take the plunge and fulfill a dream of putting out my own sheet. I won't get rich doing it, but I envision a bulletin that's not only fun, but funny, offbeat and informative too.

How will WT&N be different from what's already out there?

We will not only search for the latest scoops and review cards we attend (in a brutally honest manner I must point out), but we'll also take you for a ride in our time machine to the shows of yesterday. Wrestling is an important part of pop culture; it has a history that is worth exploring; for older readers it will be a trip down memory lane-for younger fans it will hopefully be fun to learn the roots of today's mat madness.

What would I like to see from you the reader?

If you attend a card, write it up! If you have a "hot scoop," please send it in. If there's a fond memory of yesteryear that you'd like to chronicle, by all means do! And we need letters too! Any feedback would be most appreciated.

What unique features will WT&N have?

Besides our "Wrestling Time Machine," I'm also starting a feature called "Reader Profile." For those hardcore fans who read multiple sheets like I do, you'll often see the same contributors. In a sense, they become the "stars" of these bulletins. If you've ever wondered what makes a hardcore wrestling fan tick, here's the bulletin that will finally give you the answer! So send in a short bio describing yourself; it can be humorous, serious, describe your favorite wrestlers etc...it's up to you!

Anyway, let's get onto the business end of this. As of now WT&N will appear monthly and cost $1.25 an issue. A 6 issue bargain subscription will be available for $6.00. Please tell a friend to tell a friend so we can make this work! Overseas readers please add $1.00 per issue.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO EVAN GINZBURG.

Once again, the address: Wrestling-Then & Now/Evan Ginzburg-Editor/P.O. Box 471/Oakland Gardens Station/Flushing, N.Y. 11364.

And now on with the show!

BULLETIN REVIEWS (A.K.A. BLATANT PLUG DEPARTMENT)

ARENA REPORT c/o Ron Lemieux, 916 Sloewood Ct., Lake Mary, Fl. 32746--published twice a month at .75¢ an issue. A fun bulletin that makes the reader feel like they're part of a big family. Emphasis on live results coverage/inside news. Look for my monthly column "A Piece Of My Mind," in "AR."

COMBAT SPORTS $2.00 an issue from P.O. Box 651 Gracie Station, New York, N.Y. 10028-0011. Extensive coverage of wrestling, roller-derby, and the martial arts.

NEW ENGLAND WRESTLING SCENE-c/o Jody Boyns 266 Palmer Ave. (Apt. 4) Falmouth, Ma. 02540. Full year-26 or so issues-$10.00/½ year-$5.00. Great t.v. coverage--if you don't get cable or don't have the patience to watch everything, this one's for you.

PRO WRESTLING TORCH: Published every two weeks by Wade Keller. Cost via subscription is $1.25 per issue U.S. and Canada and $2.00 overseas. Subscriptions available in any increment up to 26 issues. P.O. Box 201844: Minneapolis, MN. 55420. Renowned for its fine columnists and exclusive interviews. A great read.

RWRB PRO WRESTLING SUSHI: 50¢ an issue from J. Mullins-P.O. Box 36189, San Jose, Ca. 95158. Wild humor, bizarre letters (including an occasional warped writing from yours truly), and LITERARY QUOTATIONS from late poets! Must be seen to be believed. Lots of fun.

THE WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER- 4 issue set for $5.00 from Dave Meltzer-Box 1228; Campbell, Ca. 95009-1228. #1 bulletin in fandom.

INSIDE NEWS: SUPERFLY SNUKA STILL CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?

As many N.Y. based wrestling fans know, when the WWF hits Madison Square Garden each month, The Ramada Inn is the place to be after the matches. Not as many grapplers stay there as in the past, but most still pop by for an after-match drink. After a recent card, Superfly dined with Mr. Fuji across the street from the hotel and several fans patiently waited for autographs.

Tony, an autograph collecting buddy of mine told me the story this way (so make your own conclusions): Snuka and Fuji graciously signed for the fans and Tony soon grew bored and began hunting down the Broadway actors and actresses (as he collects autographs of all types). He popped back by the Inn later that evening and a cop was taking down information from a fan who claimed that Snuka "hit" him "in the face."

As Tony was not an eye witness, I guess we have to give the flying Fijian the old "innocent until proven guilty," benefit of a doubt. It does, however, sound like some old-fashioned Snuka antics wouldn't you say?

By the way a legendary Ramada story goes like this: after an MSG card, Snuka and Muraco went at it pretty fiercely. The match of the year may have actually taken place inside the hotel. Jimmy, you're a legend inside and outside the ring!

READER PROFILE- GARY FISHMAN

The Anatomy Of A Marital Breakup

One of the death blows of my marriage came when I arrived home at 2:00 A.M. after seeing Brody vs. Abdullah live and told my wife that it was the best night of my life. Man, was she sore. I guess she's a WWF fan. No, that can't be it, because she wasn't too happy when my daughter's first words were "Roddy Piper." Imagine a woman who gets mad at little things like $80 monthly trips to Philly, 3 day weekends in Baltimore, and nightly phone conversations revolving around such stimulating topics as blood-banning, territorial expansion and Dusty Rhodes' waistline. She also didn't seem to appreciate the hours spent in front of the t.v. imitating Brody's bark, Michael Hayes' strut, Flair's "Woooooo" and the Road Warriors' howl. She still talks about the night that I taught my daughter the New Zealand War Chant.

Add to the above closets full of magazines, a mailbox cluttered with bulletins, drawers full of bloody pictures and 3 Dusty Rhodes tee-shirts and you have a lifestyle that most women only dream about. Of course there are some fond memories of my marriage, like the night my wife's Russian relative arrived from the Soviet Union and I pleaded with him to go back to Russia to ask Gorbachev to call the Russian Assassins off of poor Ivan Koloff.

All in all, how many women can actually say that their husband once used the same men's room as Terry Gordy, been personally insulted by Gary Hart and accidently bumped into by Paul Jones (not to brag, but Hillbilly Jim once called me "buddy")?

I guess some women are just hard to please.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: I know Gary for almost a decade and even saw his daughter in an incubator shortly after her birth. When she was two years old, Gary popped in a tape in the VCR and said, "Margot, who's that?" She answered "Tiger Mask." (This REALLY happened-I'm not kidding). The kid's definitely destined for great things.

Gary also begged me to tell the readers that in spite of persistent rumors, he really isn't Mexican lucha libre great Fish-Man. For countless years now, Gary hasn't been able to walk the streets of N.Y. without people approaching him for autographs, and asking "aren't you the legendary masked Fish-Man?"

It's particularly embarassing down in the Wall Street area as mobs of yuppie vermin swarm him regularly, asking "When's the rematch with Perro Aguayyo?" and "score me a ringside seat at the Auditoria De Tijuana when it's signed."

Any suggestions wrestling fans?--E.G.

(Remember to send in your Reader Profiles- I think it'll be a fun feature)

SELF-PROMOTION DEPARTMENT: I'll keep this brief! Look for my article on "Who Is The Greatest Intercontinental Champion Of All-Time?" in the April, 1990 issue of Gold Belt Wrestling at your newstands now!

LETTERS

I think a newsletter with humor and nostalgia is LONG overdue... I'm behind your project 100%.

What's Gary (Fishman) up to? He's been very silent in the newsletters for a long while...looking foward to seeing him in print again...

By the way, we might have a PPV NWA in Philly 8/26 and WWF PPV in Baltimore 8/27...these are tentative but if its a GO...get ready!!

I'd be happy to do a...behind the scenes thing for your newsletter--I'm psyched.

Any other help...please let me know...

DAN REILLY
Enfield, CT.

Thanks for your encouragement and involvement. Dan "knows his stuff" and will be a welcome addition to the WT&N staff. Geez, between Dan, Gary and myself we've probably been watching 50 years of wrestling (which is an awful lot of S.D. Jones matches for anyone to live through).**-E.G.**

It has been months since I had any real involvement as a wrestling fan. A large part of this is because of my recent marital separation (If someone can think up an angle to turn my wife babyface please send it in), but at the same time my interest in wrestling has been waning. The problem is not that the WWF live cards continue to give us a glimpse of what hell must be like, but rather there has been little that the NWA has offered to kindle the kind of excitement I used to feel. Although I waited with great exasperation for years for Flair to turn clean, I have not enjoyed him nearly as much. In my opinion he was much better able to carry a match as a heel (actually he doesn't need to carry a match as I don't believe he is a smoker).

I am hoping that the return of Arn Anderson and Buzz Sawyer wil give the NWA back its heart.

Many of my favorite tag teams and singles wrestlers who not too long ago carried my love of wrestling have fallen by the wayside or have become lukewarm or cold. Barry Windham, The Midnite Express, The R&R Express, The Sheepherders, The Fantastics, Eddie Gilbert, Terry Taylor, etc. were all great reasons to head to arenas just a year or two ago. There are few names at this point to motivate me to drive hundreds of miles and spend a small fortune (which is a requirement if you live in N.Y.) Whatever anyone may say about Jim Crockett-bless that man wherever he is.

GARY FISHMAN
Bronx, N.Y.

Some interesting commentary from Gary. I still think that with the right opponents, the Midnite Express can be one of the best teams in the business, but nobody would question the fact that they had an off year in '89. Flair still remains a "holy figure" in my book, especially after the I Quit match with Funk, but his point is a valid one. When he met Sting at Starrcade and played subtle heel, it generated a lot more heat than his other two "face" matches that night. As far as Terry Taylor and the Sheepwackers go, if they disappeared like Windham, none of the fans would be the worse for it.

WRESTLING TIME MACHINE

Climb on board and travel back to those long-gone pre-Hulkamania days of 1981. This column is reprinted in its original form to provide you with the true perspective of a fan of that era.

After a 16 month absence, professional wrestling returned to the Nassau Coliseum in a big way. Seven foot five inch Andre The Giant faced 6'6" Hulk Hogan in the "Battle Of The Titans" main-event.

The match itself was not all it was hyped to be. Both men are certainly huge, but they also are slow and lumbering-providing a more colorful than exciting exhibition. Hogan, a poor imitation of SuperStar Billy Graham, took the far greater punishment, particularly when Andre grabbed the bleached blond's foreign object and used it to bloody him. The Giant kept his record intact, pinning his opponent without over-exerting himself and winning in only 8:40. It would be nice to see the Giant fight a long, tough match and give the fans in this area their money's worth, but it seems unlikely. As for the Hulk, one expects that he will be leaving the area for a lengthy time having lost three major bouts in 6 days (Tony Atlas beat him at the Garden 3/16 and Andre defeated him in Philadelphia as well on 3/21).

The co-feature was far more exciting and grueling as Sgt. Slaughter defeated Tony Garea in 9:45. The time is deceptive, because a great deal of action occurred not only during, but before and after the contest. Enroute to the ring, Slaughter was attacked by a fan, and the surly Sergeant leveled his attacker, leaving him a bloody mess. After pinning Garea in a tough contest, he put the "dreaded" cobra clutch on the fan favorite, who had to be saved by frequent partner Ric Martell. The contest was exciting throughout, and was made even more interesting by the incredible amount of abuse the fans spewed on the rugged and durable three hundred pounder.

In pre-lims, Johnny Rodz gave Great Yatsu a tremendous battle before receiving a fast count and losing in 17:02. The Moondogs defeated S.D. Jones and Ric McGraw in a fun 23:09 affair. Ric Martell defeated Baron Scicluna in 7:12, Frank Savage bested Steve King in 11:13, and Dom Denucci, sinking ever lower, lost to Stan Hansen in only 2:30, an atrocity of a match.

Let's put the pedal to the metal and shoot ahead to 5/29/84 for the NWA's first card in the Metropolitan area in 25 years. This was what you would have seen if you were sitting at The Meadowlands:

1. Ron Garvin W Jake Roberts 6:21-Too short. Nothing special.
2. Les Thornton DCOR El Gran Apollo Lousy. A BIG disappointment.
3. Dusty Rhodes W The Assassin 1:27. Phony Assassin. Rip-off.
4. Koloff/Kernodle W Mark Youngblood/Pez Whatley 16:55. Good match. Plenty of action. Ivan/Don a tough team.
5. Wahoo McDaniels NC Stan Hansen 9:30 (both bloody). Short but ALL ACTION with slaps heard in the top seats. Very exciting.
6. Road Warriors W Jimmy Valiant/King Kong Bundy 9:03. Colorful but Warriors didn't show much wrestling ability. Bundy pinned.
7. Carlos Colon W T. Blanchard 13:43. Total brawl. Both bled.

AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE LEGENDARY MAIN-EVENT...

RIC FLAIR W RICK STEAMBOAT PIN 31:29. GREAT MATCH. These guys used every hold and move in the book; great acrobatics and brawling. You can not expect to see a better match than this. In Hulk Hogan's 3 appearances at MSG he hasn't fought this long. Flair is the best in the world and this match proved it. He is the true world's champ and it isn't even worth debating. If the NWA cards in this area always have matches like this the WWF better start worrying.
(**EDITOR'S COMMENT**-Isn't it amazing that although these words were taken verbatim from my records and were originally written in 1984, BOTH Hogan and Flair remain on top as of Jan. 1990 and the WWF-NWA rivalry still rages strong today?)

The time machine hits a big bump and jolts backwards for this shocker. Look at the undercard and you'll see that I actually saw Bruiser Brody wrestle Jose Gonzalez on a live show. To be perfectly honest, I barely remembered seeing this meaningless squash until I was going through my materials in preparation for this sheet. Isn't it ironic that a long forgotten card and match actually involved two guys who would ultimately change the history of professional wrestling? (As most bulletin readers know, Gonzalez stabbed Brody to death in Puerto Rico).

I also thought it was interesting to note just how many of the wrestlers on this card are deceased or retired. Try and name main-event wrestlers of the mid-seventies who are still headlining today and it's hard to come up with too many names after Dusty Rhodes (this clearly reflects the grueling nature of the business).

For you younger fans, the Executioners were Killer Kowalski and Chuck O'Conner (a.k.a. Big John Studd). White Wolf later became Sheik Kaissey.

NASSAU VETERANS MEMORIAL COLISEUM — SATURDAY, JULY 24TH, 1976

TONIGHT'S OFFICIAL LINE-UP

WORLD'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP:

THE EXECUTIONER #1
285 pounds, Parts Unknown
and
THE EXECUTIONER #2
300 pounds, Parts Unknown
"Champions"

vs.

"W.W.W.F. CHAMPION"
BRUNO SAMMARTINO
250 pounds, Abruzzi, Italy
and
GORILLA MONSOON
401 pounds, Willingboro, N.J.
"Challengers"

DOUG GILBERT
275 pounds, Indiana

vs.

BILLY WHITE WOLF
245 pounds, Oklahoma

BARON MIKEL SCICLUNA
275 pounds, Isle of Malta

vs.

CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
260 pounds, Oklahoma

BRUISER BRODY
300 pounds, Texas

vs.

JOSE GONZALES
240 pounds, Puerto Rico

Special Tag Team Match:

ROCKY TOMAYO
245 pounds, Peru
and
JOHNNY RODZ
240 pounds, Brooklyn

vs.

MARK TENDLER
245 pounds, Long Island
and
HAYSTACKS CALHOUN
600 pounds, Arkansas

BULL POMETTI
265 pounds, Argentina

vs.

S. D. JONES
260 pounds, Philadelphia

WHEN WRESTLING MEETS REALITY
(or Lifestyles of the Pathetic & Hopeless Pt. 1)

Up until about six months ago, I was an editor in educational publishing, and a former classroom teacher. Things took an abrupt flip-flop when budget cuts resulted in my being laid off after a 2½ year stint at one particular company. I'm presently teaching adult foreign students English and Civics at night, and searching for a full-time editorial position.

"SO WHAT!" you're probably saying.

Here's where it gets bizarre. I sent out a zillion resumes to N.Y. based publishing companies, and out of the blue, Starlog Press calls (they put out Starlog-a pretty decent sci-fi/fantasy/horror magazine). I'm sitting in the office waiting to be interviewed, and as I'm looking around at framed pictures of wrestling magazine covers, it suddenly hits me-they publish them as well. My heart starts pounding-this has potential!

A pleasant looking, thirtyish editor calls me in for the interview and the first thing he says is, "We need an assistant editor for our wrestling publications."

It was like I had died and gone to Heaven. The Great Muta was on one of the covers smiling down at me. This was it...I had finally found my niche in the world.

You must realize that my resume says NOTHING about wrestling...they had called me in because of my previous editorial experience. So I start telling them about my wrestling background, my work in Arena Report(!) etc...The guy's mouth is practically hanging open. He tells me he reads Meltzer(!) and needs a guy "who knows who the Iron Sheik is." It was like a job interview from the Twilight Zone.

He seemed to want me. I certainly wanted the position. It was a regular "love connection." Then he spoiled everything-he told me the salary. It was NOT what I was looking for. I walked out like I had been suplexed off the top rope. The career search was not over...

By the way, the first night I taught, my class kept asking me if I spoke Spanish (they had assumed I'd be bilingual). I kept telling them "no," but they didn't want to believe it. Finally, after the fifth time, I told them I speak "a little Spanish." "What?" they asked. I said "lucha libre!" They all laughed. It was the first time I had used a punchline in a foreign language.

More misadventures in the lifestyles of the pathetic and hopeless in upcoming issues!--**E.G.**

RESULTS

NASSAU COLISEUM Uniondale, N.Y. 1/29/90

Dusty Rhodes W Randy Savage COR/Andre & Haku W Demolition (Haku pins Smash)/Powers of Pain W Bushwackers D.Q./Ted Dibiase W Brutus Beefcake (outside interference by Rick Martell)/"Hacksaw" Jim Duggan W Rick Martell (outside interference by Beefcake)/Bad News Brown W Hercules/Tugboat Thomas W Iron Mike Sharpe

EDITOR'S COMMENT- Is it my imagination or does this truly sound like it may have been the worst card in history?

RESULTS

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN N.Y.C. 1/15/90 (0-5* Ratings)-E. Ginzburg

1. The Genius W Jim Neidhart- The Anvil once again proves he's the most consistent wrestler in the WWF-he's had about 750 consecutive MISERABLE singles matches. ½*
2. Powers of Pain W Rockers- Hot, non-stop action. Best bout of the nite. Rockers always seem to work hard. 3¼*
3. Al Perez W Paul Roma- Not that bad, but the crowd could care less. Al made a wonderful career move coming to the WWF (a good analogy would be Lincoln's decision to go to the theater the nite he was shot).
4. Curt Hennig W Hulk Hogan D.Q.- Another hot all-action match. Whenever you see 2 three star matches on the same WWF show, you should brake out the champagne and celebrate, because odds are it won't be happening all that often. Mr. Perfect continues to impress. 3*
5. Akeem W Brett Hart- I wonder what the NAACP thinks about the African Dream? 1¼*
6. Snuka/Garvin DRAW Valentine/Honkytonk- I wish someone would create a fast-forward button for LIVE matches. Not bad but poetry in slow motion. Is it my imagination or has Greg been in the WWF for about 77 consecutive years? 2*
7. Ted Dibiase W Jake Roberts COR- The next WWF video tape will feature these two guys and will be called RESTHOLD-MANIA. No excuse for their stinking out MSG two cards in a row. 1 3/4*

(EDITOR'S NOTE- When you send in results, try to include a rating system and brief comments- THANKS!)

CURFEW

Before we wrap up issue #1, I'd like to thank the following people for their support: Gary Fishman, Dan Reilly, Howard Roth (for his original help on the Hogan-Andre piece), Ethan Kende of Walden Press (a world class mandolin player and a world class guy!) Ron "AR" Lemieux, Mike "Mr. Word Procesing" Kaplan, Stevie "Pay Per View" Lichtenstein, and all the bulletin editors who have entertained and inspired me (I finally realize just how much work goes into one of these! By the way, I'd sure appreciate any plugs so I can get this off the ground!)...Try and get any letters, results, etc. in by 2/28...Next issue we'll take you back to the Brody-Abdullah wars as I print an article that was originally targeted for the newstand but was put on ice by the Bruiser's untimely death...also more blasts from the past and the latest news, results, and our letters page which I hope will be a lively one! I'm going to try to work on some interviews for a few issues down the line...Some final words of wisdom--the next time you go on a job interview and the boss extends his hand for a shake, don't ever kick the guy in the stomach. It just doesn't work that way in the real world!...Bye for now and thanks for your support!

WRESTLING THEN AND NOW/EVAN GINZBURG-EDITOR/PUBLISHER/P.O. BOX 471/OAKLAND GARDENS STATION/FLUSHING, N.Y. 11364

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